**Infant Mortality Rate**

2234. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study to find out the reasons for increase in infant mortality in the country;

(b) if so, the facts revealed from the study;

(c) the steps taken to reduce infant mortality from the country; and

(d) the situation in that regard in every State during last three years, together with the strategies adopted to check mortality rate in those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) There has been no significant increase in the infant Mortality Rate. As per the Sample Registration System the Infant Mortality Rate during 1996, 1997 and 1998 was estimated to be 72, 71 and 72 per thousand live births respectively. The Registrar General of India conducts the Survey of Causes of Death (Rural). As per the Survey in 1996, prematurity, pneumonia, respiratory infection of the newborn and diarrhoea of newborn were the major causes of infant mortality. Estimates of the infant mortality rate for India and the major States for the last three years for which data is available are given in annexed statement (*See* below)

The measures to check infant mortality include provision of immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases, facilities for essential newborn care and appropriate management of cases of acute respiratory infections and diarrhoeal diseases and promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices. These interventions are implemented in all States/Union Territories under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme.

A UNICEF supported project called the Boarder District Cluster Strategy has been launched in 47 districts of 16 States to introduce local specific strategies to reduce the infant mortality rate to half of

existing levels within the next 2-3 years. Additional inputs are being provided to improve accessibility to Reproductive and Child Health Services in the under served districts of Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, West Bengal, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh.

**Statement**

*Infant Mortality Rates for India and Bigger States*

| | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 |
|---|---|---|---|
| India* | 72 | 71 | 72 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 65 | 63 | 66 |
| Assam | 74 | 76 | 76 |
| Bihar | 76 | 71 | 67 |
| Gujarat | 61 | 62 | 64 |
| Haryana | 68 | 68 | 70 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 63 | 62 | 68 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | Not available | | 45 |
| Karnataka | 53 | 53 | 58 |
| Kerala | 14 | 12 | 16 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 97 | 94 | 98 |
| Maharashtra | 48 | 47 | 49 |
| Orissa | 96 | 96 | 98 |
| Punjab | 51 | 51 | 54 |
| Rajasthan | 85 | 85 | 83 |
| Tamil Nadu | 53 | 53 | 53 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 85 | 85 | 85 |
| West Bengal | 55 | 55 | 53 |

*Exclude Jammu & Kashmir

*Source: Sample Registration System.